

IN THE FIGURES:

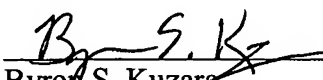
Attached to this Preliminary Amendment are two sheets of marked-up figures showing proposed changes in red for approval by the Examiner. The proposed changes include the following:

- a) Deleting FIGS. 7A-7D;
- b) Renumbering FIGS. 7E-7H to FIGS. 7A-7D, respectively;
- c) Revising FIG. 7A (formerly FIG. 7E) such that cross-sectional lines 7F-7H are renumbered to 7B-7D, respectively; and
- d) Including additional reference numerals on FIGS. 7B-7D (formerly FIGS. 7F-7H).

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that this Preliminary Amendment be entered prior to examination on the merits. Applicants submit that no fees are required for the submission of this Preliminary Amendment. Should a fee be deemed necessary for entry of this Preliminary Amendment, such fee is hereby requested and the Commissioner is authorized to charge deposit account number 19-0733 for the payment of the requisite fee. If anything further is desirable to place the application in even better form, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned representative at (503) 425-6800.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 31, 2003



MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE SPECIFICATION TO SHOW CHANGES

MADE BY AMENDMENT

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IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete the final paragraph on page 5 of the specification, which states:

FIG. 7A is a perspective view of a support component according to the present invention.

Please delete the first, second, and third paragraphs on page 6 of the specification, which state:

FIG. 7B is a side elevational view of the support component depicted in FIG. 7A.

FIG. 7C is a back elevational view of the support component depicted in FIG. 7A.

FIG. 7D is a top plan view of the support component depicted in FIG. 7A.

Please replace the fourth paragraph on page 6 with the following paragraph, wherein deleted material is set in brackets and added material is underlined:

FIG. [7E] 7A is a bottom plan view of [the] a support component [depicted in FIG. 7A].

Please replace the fifth paragraph on page 6 with the following paragraph, wherein deleted material is set in brackets and added material is underlined:

FIG. [7F] 7B is a cross-sectional view as defined by section [7F-7F] 7B-7B of FIG. [7E] 7A.

Please replace the sixth paragraph on page 6 with the following paragraph, wherein deleted material is set in brackets and added material is underlined:

FIG. [7G] 7C is a cross-sectional view as defined by section [7G-7G] 7C-7C of FIG. [7E] 7A.

Please replace the seventh paragraph on page 6 with the following paragraph, wherein deleted material is set in brackets and added material is underlined:

FIG. [7H] 7D is a cross-sectional view as defined by section [7H-7H] 7D-7D of FIG. [7E] 7A.

Please delete the first and second paragraphs on page 15 of the specification, which state:

The primary purpose of the beveled portion, particularly the downward bevel in first support element 701, is to further reduce the rate of pronation in the wearer's foot. When the beveled portion contacts a playing surface, the curvature of the beveled portion permits the footwear to smoothly transition from the position at heel strike, wherein only the back-lateral corner of the footwear is in contact with the ground, to the position where a substantial portion of outsole 450 is in contact with the ground. That is, the beveled portion permits the footwear to smoothly roll both forward and to the medial side following heel strike. This smooth transition ensures that impact forces are first absorbed by support element 701 and then gradually transferred to support elements 702, 703, and 704, as described above, thereby reducing the rate of pronation.

The present invention is disclosed above and in the accompanying drawings with reference to a variety of preferred embodiments. The purpose served by disclosure of the preferred embodiments, however, is to provide an example of the various aspects embodied in the invention, not to limit the scope of the invention. One skilled in the art will recognize that numerous variations and modifications may be made to the preferred embodiments without departing from the scope of the present invention, as defined by the appended claims.

MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE FIGURES SHOWING PROPOSED CHANGES
IN RED FOR APPROVAL BY THE EXAMINER

